

Proposed General Plan Update Goals, Policies, and Implementation Strategies

Parks, Trails, Open Space, and Recreation Amenities/Programs



Areas highlighted in yellow have been added or updated since the July 27, 2009 Task Force Meeting.

PR Goals:

High Quality Facilities and Programs

- PR-1** Provide nationally recognized park lands, trails, open space, recreation amenities, and programs which enhance the livability of the urban environment; preserve significant natural, historic, scenic and other open space resources; and meet the parks and recreation services needs of community residents, workers, and visitors.

Healthy City

- PR-2** Build healthy communities through people, parks, and programs by providing accessible recreation opportunities that are responsive to the community's health and wellness needs.

Equity

- PR-3** Create a balanced park system that provides all residents access to parks, open space, community centers, dog parks, skate parks, aquatics facilities, sports fields, community gardens, and other amenities.

Community Identity

- PR-4** Improve San Jose's overall identity and the identity and livability of individual communities by providing excellent recreation facilities, dynamic public spaces, and quality parks and recreation programs that gain national recognition.
- PR-5** Develop and promote a central park to act as a focal point for the City, its residents, and its visitors.

Environmental Stewardship

- PR-6** Provide environmentally sustainable programs, facilities, and infrastructure assets.

Interconnected Parks System

- PR-7** Provide an integrated system of parks connected by a citywide network of trails and pathways that provide opportunities for walking and biking for both recreation and transportation.

Fiscal Sustainability

- PR-8** Provide financially sustainable recreation programs, facilities, and infrastructure assets.

Themes from July 27, 2009 Task Force Meeting:

- **Excellence**
 - Great cities should have great parks. The City should provide at least 3.5 acres / 1000 of useful park space, including both large and small ‘pocket’ parks. Parks should be carefully designed and located to address local community demographics/needs/interests. Pocket parks are more appropriate in urban areas.
- **Vision/Image**
 - The City should have a significant, central park that can act as a focal point for the City. The central park should connect to or be a part of the Guadalupe River park system and incorporate significant city facilities, event places, etc. The City needs a stronger vision for its parks system.
- **Healthy City**
 - The park systems plays an important role in helping to transform San Jose into a healthier city through access to nearby park facilities, trails, and community gardens. San Jose should promote urban agriculture.
- **Creative Financing and Partnerships**
 - The City should pursue creative funding sources for park development and maintenance such as a parks endowment, privately funded parks (like Millennium Park), privately maintained parks and volunteer maintained parks.
- **Inter-connected City**
 - The City should have a more ambitious vision for the trail network and be more committed to providing trail connections.

High Quality Facilities and Programs

- Goal PR-1** Provide nationally recognized park lands, trails, open space, recreation amenities, and programs which enhance the livability of the urban

environment; preserve significant natural, historic, scenic and other open space resources; and meet the parks and recreation services needs of community residents, workers, and visitors.

PR-1 Policies:

- Policy PR-1.1 Provide 3.5 acres/1,000 population of neighborhood/community serving parkland through a combination of 1.5 acres of public park and 2.0 acres of school grounds per 1,000 San Jose residents. (*Greenprint* Target #4, Updated SJ2020GP Policy)
- Policy PR-1.2 Provide 7.5 acres/1,000 population of citywide/regional park and open space lands through a combination of facilities provided by the City of San Jose and other public land agencies. (*Greenprint* Target #5, Updated SJ2020GP Policy)
- Policy PR-1.3 Provide 500 square feet/1,000 population of community center space. (*Greenprint* Target #6, Updated SJ2020GP Policy)
- Policy PR-1.4 #33 – Provide access to high-quality recreation programs/services through the three tiered community center concept (multi-service hub, satellite, and neighborhood). (*Greenprint* Target #33)
- Policy PR-1.6 Align the City’s recreation investment with the *Greenprint*, the Community Sports Field Study, the Green Vision, the Aquatics Master Plan, the Community Center Reuse Strategy, the Urban Environmental Accords and others as determined by the City Council. (*Greenprint* Target #1)
- Policy PR-1.7 Where appropriate and feasible, develop parks and recreational facilities that are flexible and can adapt to the changing needs of the surrounding community.
- Policy PR-1.9 Design vibrant urban public spaces and parklands within Villages and Downtown that function as community gathering and focal points, providing opportunities for activities such as community events, festivals and/or farmers markets as well as opportunities for passive and, where possible, active recreation.
- Policy PR-1.10 Enhance existing parks and recreation facilities in built-out areas (through new amenities) to ensure that resident’s needs are being met.
- Policy PR-1.11 As Village and Corridor areas redevelop, they should incorporate open space and parkland recreation areas through a combination of high-quality, publicly accessible outdoor spaces provided as part of new development projects, private or publicly maintained pocket parks and neighborhood parks where possible, as well as through access to trails and other park and recreation amenities.

PR-1 Actions:

- Action PR-1.12 Maintain and utilize San Jose's PDO/PIO to implement quality facilities and programs.
- Action PR-1.13 Maintain and periodically update a strategic plan (the *Greenprint*) establishing criteria and standards for the provision of parks and recreation services. (*Greenprint* Target #2, Updated SJ2020GP Policy)
- Action PR-1.14 Periodically survey park users and surrounding communities and use the information gained from said surveys to implement improvements to existing and to plan for future parks.
- Action PR-1.15 Develop a community park to serve the existing and future residents, workers, and visitors in North San Jose.

Healthy City

Goal PR-2 Build healthy communities through people, parks, and programs by providing accessible recreation opportunities that are responsive to the community's health and wellness needs.

PR-2 Policies:

- Policy PR-2.1 Encourage healthy food choices, exercise, and the production of locally grown agriculture for personal use by providing community garden facilities.
- Policy PR-2.2 Provide quality recreation and neighborhood services that increase frequency of exercise, foster physical activity, and encourage healthy living. (*Greenprint* Strategy p. 21)
- Policy PR-2.3 Design and construct new parks and amenities in a manner which allows access to each type of recreation experience for people of all abilities to the maximum extent possible. (*Greenprint* Target #30, SJ2020GP Policy)
- Policy PR-2.4 Spend Park Dedication Ordinance (PDO) and Park Impact Ordinance (PIO) fees for neighborhood serving elements (such as playgrounds/tot-lots, basketball courts, etc.) within a 3/4 mile radius of the project site that generates the funds. (*Greenprint* Target #7)
- Policy PR-2.5 Spend, as appropriate, PDO/PIO fees for community serving elements (such as soccer fields, dog parks, community gardens, etc.) within a 3-mile radius or within the same Urban Planning Area as the residential development that generates the PDO/PIO funds. (*Greenprint* Target #8)
- Policy PR-2.6 All new residential developments over 200 units in size should be located within 1/3 of a mile of an existing or new park, trail, open space or recreation

school grounds open to the public after normal school hours. (*Greenprint* Target #10)

Policy PR-2.7 Locate, orient, and design public parks, open space lands and other similar public areas in such a way as to facilitate their security and policing. (*Greenprint* Target #16, SJ2020GP Policy)

PR-2 Actions:

Action PR-2.8 Partner with the San Jose Redevelopment Agency to provide parks and other recreation facilities as indicated in the Strong Neighborhoods Initiative, Neighborhood Improvement Plans, which align with the *Greenprint*. (*Greenprint* Target #31)

Action PR-2.9 Locate, orient, and design parks and recreation facilities using the Crime Prevention by Environmental Design Concept, when applicable. (*Greenprint* Target #16)

Action PR-2.10 Incorporate educational aspects into community garden facilities/programs to inform the public about the health and environmental benefits of locally grown agriculture for personal consumption.

Action PR-2.11 Promote San Jose's parks and recreation system as one piece of the "healthy city" concept that encourages healthy bodies and minds for San Jose's residents and visitors.

Equity

Goal PR-3 Create a balanced park system that provides all residents access to parks, open space, community centers, dog parks, skate parks, aquatics facilities, sports fields, community gardens, and other amenities.

PR-3 Policies:

Policy PR-3.1 Provide equitable access to parks, open space, community centers, dog parks, skate parks, aquatics facilities, sports fields, community gardens, and other amenities in order to provide a high quality of life for our residents.

Policy PR-3.2 Provide access to parklands within a one-half kilometer (1/3 mile) radius of all San Jose residents by either acquiring lands within 1/3 mile or providing safe connections to existing recreation facilities outside of the 1/3 mile radius consistent with the Urban Environmental Accords for recreation open space. (*Greenprint* Target #9, Updated SJ2020GP Policy)

Policy PR-3.3 Apply resources to meet parks, recreation, and open space needs in underserved areas of the city.

PR-3 Actions:

- Action PR-3.4 Provide the amenities identified in the Ideal Planning Area Model in the *Greenprint*, which include amenities such as community centers, parkland, sport fields, dog parks and community gardens. (*Greenprint* Strategy, p. 66)
- Action PR-3.5 Develop programs, activities, events, and facilities that appeal to a broad audience, including but not limited to youth, young adults, and seniors and those of varying ethnicities and backgrounds.

Community Identity

Goal PR-4 Improve San Jose's overall image and individual communities' images and livability by providing excellent recreation facilities, dynamic public spaces, and quality parks and recreation programs that gain national recognition.

PR 4 Policies:

- Policy PR-4.1 Collaborate with the community in the design, programming, and operation of parks and recreation facilities to ensure that these facilities meet their needs. (*Greenprint* Target #34)
- Policy PR-4.2 In the design of parks, consider providing features, facilities, and services that promote tourism and make San José an attractive location for economic development as well as serve the needs of San José residents. (*Greenprint* Target #29, SJ2020GP Policy)
- Policy PR-4.3 Promote San Jose's unique, regional parks and recreation facilities as regional attractions/destinations by incorporating facilities, programs, and events with regional draws and marketing these to a regional audience.

PR-4 Actions:

- Action PR-4.4 Increase special events that bring neighborhoods together, such as street festivals, resource fairs, holiday parades, movies, theatrical plays, and concerts in local parks. (*Greenprint* Strategy, p. 21)

Goal PR-5 Develop and promote a central park to act as a focal point for the City, its residents, and its visitors.

PR-5 Actions:

- Action PR-5.1 Develop the Guadalupe River Park as the City's grand park, as part of an integrated park system, by updating the Guadalupe River Park Master Plan.
- Action PR-5.2 Promote the park as the City's grand park that hosts events, attracts visitors, and strengthens San Jose's overall identity.

- Action PR-5.3 Adhere to and update, as necessary, the *Guadalupe River & Park Urban Design Guidelines* to address how development adjacent to the Guadalupe River Park will support and/or enhance the park.
- Action PR-5.4 Incorporate features, facilities, and special events in Guadalupe River Park that attract a wide variety of users from throughout San Jose and the region and establishes it as San Jose's grand public park.

Environmental Stewardship

Goal PR-6 Provide environmentally sustainable programs, facilities, and infrastructure assets, accompanied by a network of trails and pathways throughout the City to provide an alternate means of transportation.

PR-6 Policies:

- Policy PR-6.1 Partner with the community to promote environmental stewardship. (*Greenprint* Goal)
- Policy PR-6.2 Develop trails, parks and recreation facilities in an environmentally sensitive manner and comply with all resource agency permits. (*Greenprint* Target #17)
- Policy PR-6.3 Encourage public land agencies to accept dedications of open space lands of regional significance, including watersheds, wildlife habitats, wetlands, historic sites and scenic lands. (*Greenprint* Target #26, Updated SJ2020GP Policy)
- Policy PR-6.4 Consistent with the Green Vision, complete the City's trail network and where feasible develop interconnected trails with bike lanes to facilitate bicycle commuting. (*Greenprint* Target #11)
- ~~1) — Develop or renovate facilities using an environmentally sustainable approach while simultaneously minimizing on-going maintenance concerns. (*Greenprint* Target #18)~~
- Policy PR-6.5 Design and maintain park and recreation facilities to minimize water, energy and chemical (e.g. pesticides and fertilizer) use. Preserve wildlife habitat and incorporate native and/or drought-resistant vegetation and ground cover where appropriate.
- Policy PR-6.6 Encourage sustainable connections (such as pedestrian/bike trails, transit, etc.) between community elements like schools, parks, recreation centers, libraries and other public nodes. (*Greenprint* Target #12)
- Policy PR-6.7 In design and construction, consider the role of parks, trails, and open space in preserving or enhancing existing ecosystems or restoring where appropriate.

Policy PR-6.8 Encourage development of public and private recreational uses in rural and hillside areas that is low intensity and sensitive to geologic hazards, water resources, natural habitats, and visual impacts, consistent with allowed densities and development standards for residential and other uses. (SJ2020GP Policy)

PR-6 Actions:

Action PR-6.9 Obtain LEED Certification (or its equivalent) for new and existing parks and recreation facilities, as dictated by applicable City policies.

Interconnected Parks System

Goal PR-7 Provide an integrated system of parks connected by a citywide network of trails and pathways that provide opportunities for walking and biking for both recreation and transportation

PR-7 Policies:

Policy PR-7.1 Encourage non-vehicular transportation to and from parks, trails, and open spaces by developing trail and other pleasant walking and bicycle connections to existing and planned parks facilities.

Policy PR-7.2 Control land development along designated Trails and Pathways Corridors in order to provide sufficient trail right-of-way and to ensure that new development adjacent to the corridors does not compromise safe trail access nor detract from the scenic and aesthetic qualities of the corridor. (SJ2020GP Policy)

Policy PR-7.3 Whenever possible, construct parks and recreation facilities, especially those that are youth serving, where they are accessible to public transit. (*Greenprint Strategy*, p. 20)

Policy PR-7.4 Design bridges and other public improvements within designated Trails and Pathways Corridors to provide safe and secure routes for trails, including grade separation of roadways and trails whenever feasible. (SJ2020GP Policy)

Policy PR-7.5 Meet the parks needs and expand recreational opportunities for residents in dense, urban areas partially by focusing on improving connections (particularly trail, bicycle, and pedestrian networks) to large parks and recreation facilities.

PR-7 Actions:

Action PR-7.6 At parks, trails, and recreational facilities, provide materials to educate the public on options for reaching various recreational destinations using non-vehicular transportation and explain the environmental and health benefits of using these alternative means.

- Action PR-7.7 Evaluate abandoned railroad rights-of-ways for acquisition and development as trails where the right-of-way aligns with the City's Trail System. (*Greenprint* Target #14, Updated SJ2020GP Policy)
- Action PR-7.8 Work with the Santa Clara Water District and the utilities, including PG& E, to explore opportunities to develop trails along their rights-of-way.

Fiscal Sustainability

Goal PR-8 Provide financially sustainable recreation programs, facilities, and infrastructure assets.

PR-8 Policies:

- Policy PR-8.1 Partner with the community to promote volunteerism in the care and programming of parks and recreation facilities. (*Greenprint* Goal)
- Policy PR-8.2 Encourage privately owned and maintained and publicly accessible recreation spaces that encourage community interaction; compliment the private property uses; and, when adjacent to existing and planned parks, recreation facilities, or open spaces, connect them to these facilities. (*Greenprint* Action, p. 37) This policy is particularly important in dense, urban areas.
- Policy PR-8.3 When funding permits, purchase and land bank properties as they become available for future park and recreation facility developments. (*Greenprint* Target #15)
- Policy PR-8.4 Consider open space land dedications when public ownership will preserve the natural and scenic beauty, protect natural and man-made landmarks, or provide a land supply to meet future recreation needs. (*Greenprint* Target #28, Updated SJ2020GP Policy)
- Policy PR-8.5 When new developments are over 50 residential units and are adjacent to a designated Trails and Pathways corridor, encourage the developer to build a trail when it is a part of a continuous system. (*Greenprint* Target #13, Updated SJ2020GP Policy)
- Policy PR-8.6 Develop or renovate facilities using a financially sustainable approach to maximize revenue generation, where possible. (*Greenprint* Target #19)
- Policy PR-8.7 Continue to actively collaborate with school districts, utilities, and other public agencies to provide for appropriate recreation uses of their respective properties and rights-of-ways. Consideration should be given to cooperative efforts between these entities and the City to develop parks, pedestrian and bicycle trails, sports fields and recreation facilities. (*Greenprint* Target #22, Updated SJ2020GP Policy)

- Policy PR-8.8 Collaborate with the public land agencies and other appropriate jurisdictions to direct the expenditure of their funds to provide parks and other open space lands and recreation resources within, or in close proximity to, the urban population. (*Greenprint* Target #23, Updated SJ2020GP Policy)
- Policy PR-8.9 Work cooperatively with local school districts in identifying and evaluating surplus school sites for potential parkland acquisition. (*Greenprint* Target #24, Updated SJ2020GP Policy)
- Policy PR-8.10 Encourage the development of private/commercial recreation facilities that are open to the public to help meet existing and future demands (i.e. plazas, swimming pools, fitness centers and gardens). (*Greenprint* Target #32)

PR-8 Actions:

- Action PR-8.11 Align the City's capital investment with General Plan Goals & Policies, the Greenprint, and other applicable plans/policies adopted by the City Council. (*Greenprint* Target #1)
- Action PR-8.12 Explore recreation augmentation and funding to offset reliance on the General Fund. (*Greenprint* Target #21)
- Action PR-8.13 Consider use of general obligation bonds to further the development of parks, recreation facilities, and trails for the City.
- Action PR-8.14 Continue implementation of the recreation Pricing and Revenue City Council Policy to offset reliance on the General Fund. (*Greenprint* Target #20)
- Action PR-8.15 Explore means for private maintenance of public parks and recreation facilities (such as maintenance from neighborhood/community groups, businesses, etc.) as a means to reduce maintenance costs.
- Action PR-8.16 Explore creative funding options for the design, development, and maintenance of recreation facilities and programs, including grants, special assessment districts and partnerships with public, private, and non-profit organizations.
- Action PR-8.17 Maintain and periodically update the School Site Reuse Plan. (*Greenprint* Target #25, Updated SJ2020GP Policy)
- Action PR-8.18 Implement fee changes for recreation programs and facilities in order to generate additional revenues for the City. (*Greenprint* Action, p. 33)
- Action PR-8.19 Pursue joint use projects with schools and colleges, Santa Clara Valley Water District, other public agencies, and private foundations. (*Greenprint* Action, p.36)

Action PR-8.20 Develop a Parks & Community Foundation as a means for residents and business partners to support parks and recreation programs and projects.
(*Greenprint* Action, p. 36)